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District attorney, U.S. Attorney's office team up to get guns, drugs off Shasta County streets



Project Safe Neighborhoods is a national initiative that could help give law enforcement the tools to get repeat criminals off the streets for good.

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Posted By: Mario Montalvo

The Shasta County District Attorney's Office announced a partnership with the United States Attorney's Office today that they say could help cut down on violent crimes in Shasta County.

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It's called Project Safe Neighborhoods, a national initiative that could help give law enforcement the tools to get repeat criminals off the streets for good.

"We are happy to announce today with the U.S. Attorney's Office to combat these crimes in the worst offenders in Project Safe Neighborhoods," Shasta County District Attorney Stephanie Bridgett said.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide program aimed at reducing gun and gang crime by working directly with local prosecutors and law enforcement.

"The focus is on felons with guns," U.S. attorney McGregor Scott said. "We want to get those who legally cannot possess firearms off the streets so they do not pose a danger to our citizens."

"And we could see a reduction in violent gun-related crimes as a result of this project nationwide and here of course in the eastern district," Shasta County Sheriff Tom Bosenko said.

Bridgett says recent legislation has essentially tied her office and local law enforcement's hands.

"After the passage of AB 109, Prop 47 and Prop 57, many of the resources of local law enforcement and the prosecution's offices have been taken away and made it more difficult to prosecute these cases," Bridgett said.

And Redding police captain Bill Schueller says this partnership will give them one more tool in their fight to improve public safety.

“Crimes continue to be reduced as far as sentencing and prosecution in the state,” Schueller said. “And having an additional tool to be able to go the federal level could make a big difference in some of these cases. I can think of a handful of cases in the last couple of years where this would have been a valuable tool for us to use.”

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